

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 191500Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0020

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3557

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY EXERCISE IN NORTH-
EASTERN ITALY AND NORTHERN ADRIATIC

REF: STATE 154330

1. WHILE WE APPRECIATE PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT BE INVOLVED
IN CANCELLATION OF EXERCISES, WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE
CONCLUSION REACHED IN THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF REFTEL AND
RECOMMEND THAT NORTHEASTERN ITALY PORTION OF EXERCISE BE
CANCELLED.

2. AS THE DEPT POINTS OUT, THE DISPUTE OVER THE TRIESTE
ISSUE IS NOT RESOLVED. THE FACT THAT IT HAS JECENTLY
BEEN GENERALLY QUIESCENT DOES REFLECT EFFORTS ON BOTH
SIDES TO COOL THE RHETORIC. HOWEVER, SITUATION HAS NOT
CHANGED BASICALLY SINCE TIME OF "DARK IMAGE". THERE
ARE SOME THINGS ABOUT WHICH THE YUGOSLAVS FEEL THEMSELVES
UNABLE TO REMAIN SILENT - AND IMPLIED PRESSURE FROM
EITHER GREAT POWER IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS, ESPECIALLY
WHEN THEY SEE IT AS RELATED TO A BORDER ISSUE. PUT
ANOTHER WAY, AS THE YUGOSLAVS SEE IT, FAILURE ON THEIR
PART TO PROTEST ITALIAN-US MANEUVERS IN THE AREA NEAR
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TRIESTE WOULD COMPROMISE THEIR ABILITY TO REACT TO SIMILAR

SOVIET ACTIONS. WE DOUBT THAT FACT EXERCISE IS SMALL AND NO SHORE
LEAVE IS INVOLVED WILL ALTER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES OR
MODERATE EXPECTED YUGOSLAV REACTION.

3. FOR THESE REASONS, REITERATE RECOMMENDATION
MADE BY AMBASSADOR DURING HIS RECENT WASHINGTON
CONSULTATIONS THAT "ALTANEA '74" EITHER BE DELETED FROM
THE PROPOSED EXERCISES, OR BE MOVED TO ANOTHER PORTION
OF THE ITALIAN COASTLINE FAR FROM TRIESTE.
TOON

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